H.O.P.E
"Every Student, Every Day"
Peabody EDUCATION Foundation
P.O Box 233, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

NEWSLETTER – October 2022

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

George Peabody Legacy Awards

Congratulations to our 2022 George Peabody Legacy Award Recipients!

The Peabody Education Foundation is pleased to announce the names of this year's George Peabody Legacy Award Recipients! This award was created to recognize and honor the educators and philanthropists from within the community who work to provide a lifetime of contributions to our educational system. Nominations for this award were solicited from the public and selected by a nomination committee. This year we selected six (6) recipients to receive this honor from the many nominations that we received:

- Eric Buckley (Retired)
- Ellen Burke (Posthumously)
- Judith McVann (Currently teaching)
- Mark Metropolis (Retired)
- Linda Robbins (Retired)
- Michalene Hague (Currently Teaching)

Each of these individuals will be recognized and honored for their lifetime of contributions to our educational system. An Awards Ceremony will be held at the Higgins Middle School on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The event will feature a buffet dinner in the cafeteria prior to the Awards Ceremony. **Deadline for tickets and sponsorships is October 7, 2022.** Information can be found on the PEF website https://peabodyedfoundation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards/

PEF Grants Program

Applications now available!

The PEF Grants Program is the signature program of the Peabody Education Foundation. Every fall the PEF offers funding to teachers and schools to provide their classrooms and students with programs and resources that fall outside of the normal school budget.

Applications are submitted to the PEF Grants Committee for consideration and approval. Funding is provided through the generous donations of our community and local businesses. Since 1985, the Peabody Education Foundation has worked endlessly to raise over $1M from within the community to bring innovative programs to our public schools!

There are now two opportunities for funding:

Individual Teacher Grants: Teachers are welcome to submit individual grants for their classroom with a $1500 cap limit. Applications are currently being accepted and will continue to be accepted and reviewed on a rolling-basis **until February 1, 2023**. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

School-wide Grants: Principals/Department Heads are welcome to submit grants that benefit entire grades or schools with a $10,000 cap limit. Applications are currently being accepted and will continue to be accepted and reviewed on a rolling-basis **until February 1, 2023**. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For guidelines and applications, please check out our website at
https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/pef-grants/

Birthday Books Program

Happy Birthday, students!

Many children from within our City come from homes where books are not readily available. The goal of the Birthday Books Program is to help children and families see books as valuable treasures and treats that can be enjoyed as presents and shared with the entire family. The Birthday Books Program hopes to foster a love of reading and books, promote family time together and help families to realize the importance of having books in the home to read again and again.

In 2021, the PEF teamed up with JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation to fund the Birthday Books Program for every elementary school student in Peabody! And because of the generous funding from our sponsors, the Birthday Books Program is now a permanent part of the Peabody Education Foundation's commitment to our children! Every year, every elementary student will be able to bring home that special birthday book!

Books are distributed by each elementary school to their own students with a Happy Birthday sticker included inside each book. Over 3000 students are now able to take their own birthday book home and share it with their family!

Guest Reader Program

Reading to our students is key!

The Guest Reader Program is for students in kindergarten through grade 5. Every year, from January to May, business leaders and local community members spend 20 to 30 minutes per week in an elementary school classroom reading aloud to the children. The Program is intended to expose students to the pleasures of reading and to present a positive reading role model. Reading to children brings enjoyment to both the readers and the students, and reinforces the idea that reading is fun for everyone.

For Teachers: If you are interested in having your classroom participate in the Guest Reader Program, please download and complete the Teacher Request Form at https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/guest-reader-program/.

If you make arrangements directly with a specific person to read in your class, we would appreciate it if you would still complete and return the form. This will allow us to provide updates to all our guest readers.

Email completed application to Marjorie Macarelli at macarellim@peabody.k12.ma.us

For Readers: If you would like to sign up as a guest reader, please download and complete the Reader Request Form at https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/guest-reader-program/.

Email completed application to Natalie Maga at Natalie@peabodytv.com

Deadline to apply is November 1, 2022.

Mental Wellness Initiative

Working to keep minds healthy!

Once again, the PEF will be exploring new initiatives to assist the Peabody School Department and our students, teachers and parents with Mental Wellness. Thanks to our sponsors JB Thomas/Lahey, North Shore Bank, GraVoc Charitable Foundation and North Shore Community Action Programs, the Initiative will now be entering it's second year of providing resources. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!

PEF News

Did you know…… the Peabody Education Foundation started as the Peabody Education Council back in 1985! That's 37 years we have been providing resources to our schools!

Did you know……the PEF Grants Program used to be called Best Bet! It was one of the original programs of the Peabody Education Council.

Did you know……the Peabody Education Council used to have a two-day used book sale to raise funds for programs! The books were all donated by the community and the event was hosted at the Northshore Mall!

Did you know…. during the pandemic, the PEF provided recess materials for all elementary schools, fully loaded backpacks for students in need, and stress materials for calm spots in each of our elementary schools.

Did you know……the PEF spends $35,000-$50,000 each year for the Peabody Grants Program!

Did you know…..you can make a donation to the PEF in memory of a special person or in honor of that special person!

Did you know….over the past ten years, more than 50 educators and philanthropists from within our community have been awarded the George Peabody Legacy Award, recognizing their commitment to our educational system!

Donations

Special thanks to Warren Waugh of Lyon-Waugh Auto Group for his continuous support of the PEF! Warren recently presented a check to the PEF Board of Directors for $50,000! His donation will allow for a much further reach in the community and demonstrates how much Warren cares about the Peabody Public Schools! Thank you, Warren and Lyon-Waugh Auto Group!

Pictured left to right: Mary Bellavance (PEF), Kristine Bruno (PEF), Warren Waugh (Lyon-Waugh Auto Group), Daniel Vassallo (PEF), David Gravel (PEF), Dr. Josh Vadala (PEF), Katrina Vassallo (PEF)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The last few years have been a struggle for everyone, especially our younger generation. Academic normalcy remains out of reach for many students, educators, and parents. Students and educators continuously wrestle with mental health challenges, higher rates of violence and misbehavior, and concerns about lost instructional time. This has prompted the PEF to step up our efforts and work harder to provide as many additional programs and funding for our Peabody public school children as possible. We need your help! A gift from you will help us continue our work and we ask that you consider supporting the PEF in one of the following areas:

- Birthday Books Program
- Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship
- George Peabody Legacy Awards
- Mental Wellness Initiative
- PEF Grants Program

Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated. 100% of all donations go directly to the programs that support our students. Our goal is to transform lives and build brighter futures. None of these programs would be possible without your support!

To donate or for more information please go to www.peabodyedfoundation.org/contribute

PEF Board News

We are hard at work!

The PEF Board is working hard to bring programs and resources to our Peabody Schools! We meet monthly as a Board, but work goes on daily to assist our students and teachers.

We are currently fundraising, adding information to our website, working on newsletters, updating our by-laws, reaching out on social media, collaborating with community partners and planning events.

Special thanks to all of our Board and Committee members who donate their time and efforts to help make our Peabody Schools great!

The PEF also would like to welcome Christopher Pesce, Vice President and Marketing Officer at North Shore Bank, to the Board of Directors!

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